

Dear Residents:

This is a notice that the next few months a large infrastructure improvement project will be started in your area. This project will consist of cleaning and relining water mains throughout the Cotton Street to South Street areas. In addition, the project includes the transfer of water services on 11th Street between Cotton and South Streets. This project is being done to increase the water flow/pressure, improve water quality, and fire protection ability in your area.

Streets to be affected by the work include:

1. Cotton Street from 9th to 19th Streets
2. 11th Street from Cotton to South Streets
3. South Street from 11th to 9th Streets

Reading Area Water Authority (RAWA) has awarded a contract to Spinello Company of Fairfield, New Jersey to perform this work. Spinello Company is very experienced in this type work and has completed similar and larger projects in many states along the East coast.

The project will require that a temporary water feed system be set up throughout the affected areas. This temporary system will consist of plastic pipes and hoses that will connect each home to the City's water supply. Hoses will be run from the street to each resident's meter connection. Once the main water is cleaned and relined, the contractor will need to clear each homeowner's services connection and will need access again to the water meter inside of your home. The temporary system will not block any resident's access to their homes or parking space. The Contractor will be contacting each resident to schedule an appointment to further explain the process.

The project is anticipated to run through the spring and early summer with work proceeding in stages starting from South Street, 11th Street, and Cotton Street from 9th to 19th Streets. RAWA has retained BCM Engineers to act as the onsite construction manager and inspector. If there are any questions or concerns with the ongoing work in your area, please contact Mr. Mark Messina of BCM Engineers at (610) 669-3811. Mr. Messina is BCM's field inspector and will be onsite during construction activity. BCM's project construction manager is Mr. Alan Wong. Mr. Wong can be contacted at (610) 842-3382.

The contractor's field superintendent for the project is Mr. Randy Vandyke – Day Shift. He can be reached at (610) 496-2490. Night shift superintendent is Mr. Aniel Lemus at (443) 406-7093.

If you have any further questions regarding the water system please call the RAWA Store yard at 610-655-6254. Thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dean A. Miller
Executive Director
Reading Area Water Authority

Answers to the Cotton Street Project

1. *Will contractors knock on doors prior to start of work on project?*

Answer: Spinello will knock on all doors to initiate contact with homeowners to analyze each situation individually for service connection. This will be accomplished by using two employees prior to connecting to the houses. All Spinello employees will be identified with a badge.

2. *Does there need to be grounding of the electric service?*

Answer: No

3. *How will the connection from temporary line to the water service be done?*

Answer: The connection from the temporary line to the water service will be accomplished by either hooking up to an outside spigot or by removing the meter, Spinello's preferred method is to hook to the outside spigot and close the curb stop in the sidewalk. Removing the meter requires Spinello to gain access to the residence by using a window or a vent.

4. *Where will the excavation be?*

Answer: The only time there will be an excavation for water services is if the curb stop is inoperable. The excavations for the water main will all take place in the street on the side of the road that does not include parking. For the service transfer excavations on 11th street between South Street and Cotton Street, Spinello will plan ahead to give the homeowners prior notification for parking and water service interruption. The customer will be without water for a time period of 15 to 30 minutes. Please keep in mind that there are exceptions and that could increase this time slightly.

5. *Any chance that the water service could be damaged?*

Answer: Any damage to the existing or temporary water service between the water main and the meter will be repaired by Spinello's emergency repair crew, which will be on call 24 hours a day.

6. *How will the traffic be affected?*

Answer: Traffic will be maintained throughout the duration of the project. We will use methods such as signs, cones and certified flaggers to aid in the flow of traffic.

7. *Will there be an increase in water pressure?*

Answer: There may be a slight increase in water pressure and should be a increase in water quality.

8. *How will this project effect trash/recycling pick up?*

Answer: Will not be disrupted. City of Reading recycling department has in their possession the schedule of the project and has notified the trash haulers.

9. **When will excavation begin?**

Answer: Excavation of the water main on South Street and 11th Street has already begun. The next phase, which is Cotton Street between 11th and 13th Street is set to begin April 14, 2009. Please keep in mind that the schedule is subject to moderate change.

10. **How will parking be affected?**

Answer: Parking on Cotton Street could be affected but it does not seem to be a major problem. However 11th Street between South Street and Cotton Street will be affected while transferring the services from the 6 inch main to the 16 inch main. Spinello will make it a priority to notify the homeowners of the sections of the street that we will be working on prior to the day of excavation.

11. **Who is responsible for accessing the curb boxes?**

Answer: Spinello Crews will evaluate the curb boxes before entering a new phase. This will be the 2nd step taken after the initial analysis of the temporary hook up. This will not require the assistance of the homeowners.

12. **What is the relining process?**

Answer: The cleaning & relining process will begin by cutting out sections of the main and removing the water. Access from one end of the pipe to the other is gained by using a steel Roding machine sort of a large roto rooter. The cleaning process takes place using two flatbed trucks containing a winch by pulling metal scrapers and rubber squeegees back and forth through the pipe. Upon completion of the cleaning, we pull a cement hose and an air hose from one side to the other and hook an air driven machine to the end of the cement hose. The lining, 3/16" thick, is accomplished by pulling the hoses out of the pipe while pumping cement through the machine which is spraying the pipe. Three hours after completion, it is necessary to flush the service line from the house of the main. For the homes that are hooked up using a spigot, we simply open the curb stop for 5 seconds and recluse. The houses that are hooked up using the meter setting will have a second hose attached to the main side that we will hook to our temporary bypass or air tank. This will not require entry into the home. There is a possibility of 3 times that we will need to enter the home: A. Evaluate hook up. B. Complete temporary hook up. C. Restore home to normal water supply. Please refer to Spiniello's website, www.Spiniello.com for more information on the cleaning & relining process.

13. **Who is paying for project?**

Answer: RAWA is paying for this project through the Capital Improvement Plan.

14. **What kind of hoses will be used?**

Answer: Spinello Contracting will be using ¾ potable water hoses for the temporary hook ups. They will resemble a typical garden hose.

15. *Will there be Federal Stimulus Money involved to assist paying for this project?*

Answer: The RAWA has applied for the grants through the Federal Stimulus Program via H2O Grant.

16. *How will workers get access?*

Answer: The workers will gain access to the residences by knocking on doors to communicate with the homeowners about how we are to proceed with temporary connection.

17. *What type of ID should I ask to see before allowing workers into my home?*

Answer: The ID will be a company issued picture card that will include company name, address, and phone number.

18. *How will we reach workers in case of an emergency?*

Answer: Spinello Contractors can be reached by calling the dispatch number that has been sent out to homeowners. They will be contacted by the dispatch.

19. *What hours will work be done?*

Answer: Work will take place between the hours of 7:30 AM and 5:00 PM.